

I love books. Recently, I cleaned out my book shelf, spurred on by a move from one home to another home. How many books do I really need to keep? When I come across a book I want to read, I look for a copy at my local library. If they have it, I put it on hold and have them bring it to the nearest branch. I find it amazing what services our libraries offer these days. You should check out your local library if you haven't gone in lately.

If it is a book that I will refer to time and time again, then I buy it. I can't keep popping in to the library to look up facts or when I need a bit of inspiration. Some books just need to be purchased.

When I cleaned out my bookcase this summer, I gave away lots of the books. Some I just put outside on a sunny day and let people passing by browse and take what interested them. Some of them I donated to my local library.

[Books for Exchange](#) for textbooks that you need to buy or sell.

If a book is truly in such bad shape that it can't be passed on or reused in some way, then take the cover off and recycle the paper. What you do with the cover will depend a lot on what it is made of.

Are you a magazine fan? If your magazine is available as an online subscription, then that is the best way to go. If not, when you are done with each issue, find a local doctor's office, senior's centre or other neighbourhood organization that would welcome magazine's in their waiting room or library.

And finally, newspapers can also be read online and/or shared with others in the neighbourhood. Try to resist the each to pick up a free newspaper on your way to work, read an item or two on the way, and then dump it in the garbage when you arrive.

Waste not your old books, magazines

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